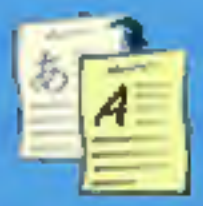
Maoyuu Maou Yuusha

"Be Mine, Hero!" - "I refuse!"

CREATED BY: TOUNO MAMARE & ISHIDA AKIRA

X



Mr.X

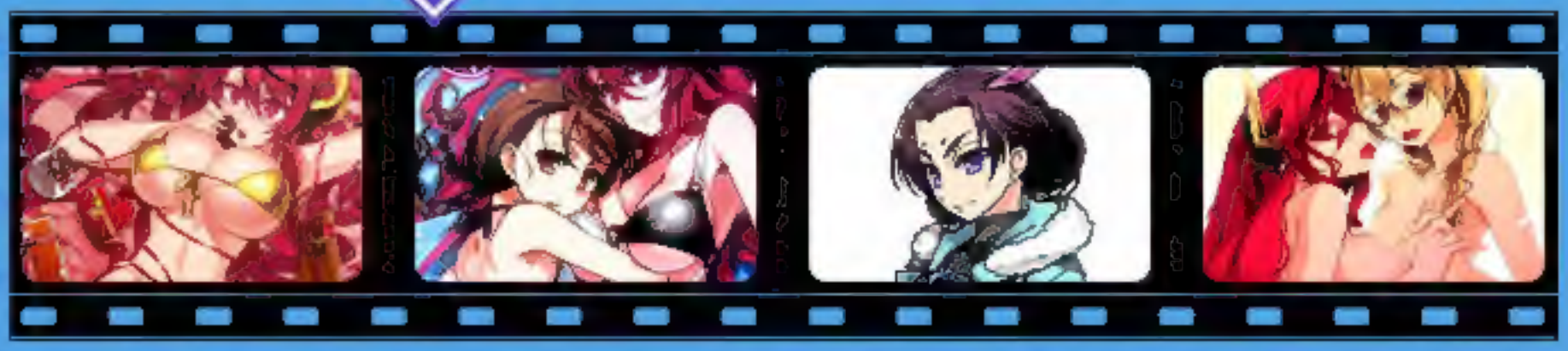
Garen

Knight

Hakaze

Fairy

44



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第十四巻
まおゆう
Archenemy and Hero
魔王勇者
——「この我のものとなれ、勇者よ」「断る！」——
漫画原作
石田あきら 橙乃ままれ
キャラクター原案 水玉螢之丞・toi8
Kadokawa Comics A
まおゆう 魔王勇者

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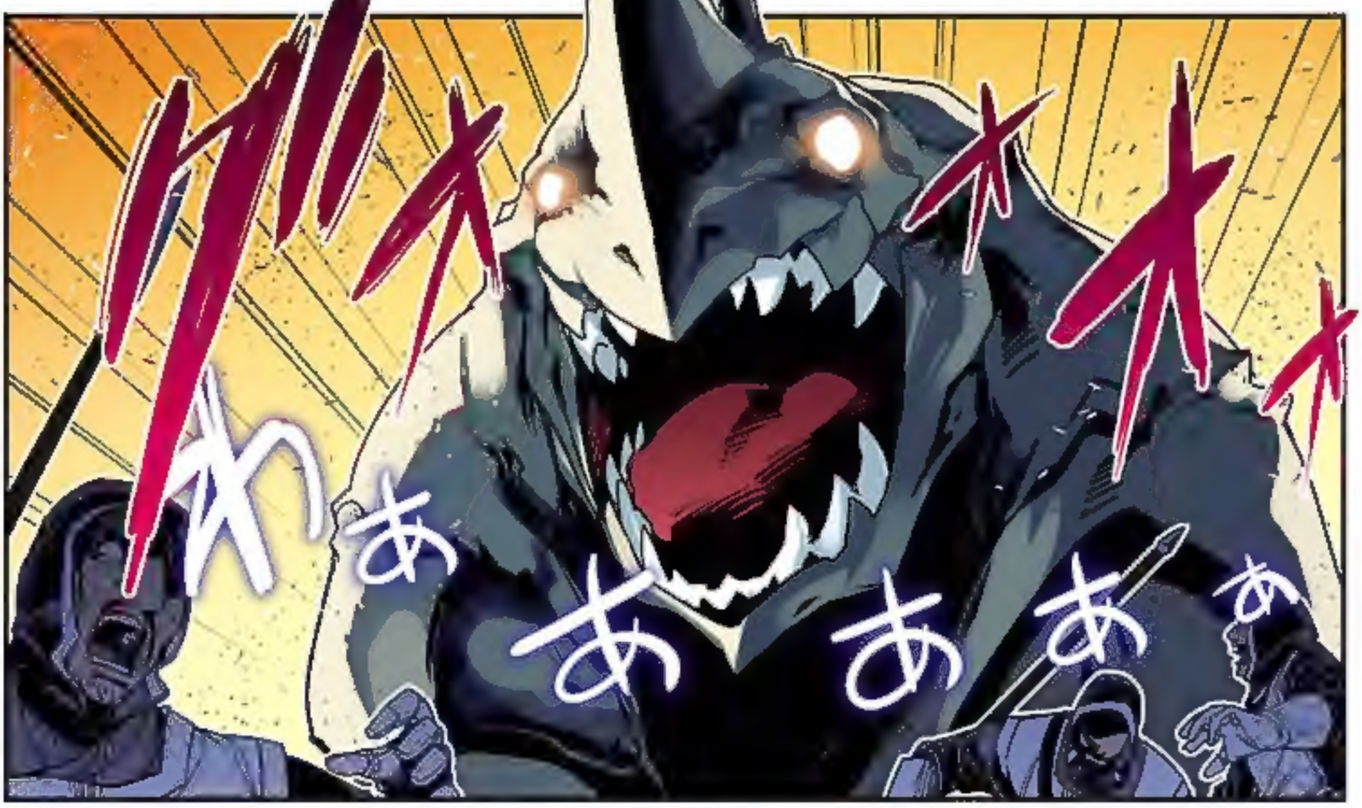
第四十四話


ガオオオ
あああああ

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I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A HUGE MONSTER...
ヒイイ
WHOA!

WE HAVEN'T FINISHED LOADING ...
WE CAN'T
MUSKET-MEN!

漫画原作
石田あきら 橙乃ままれ
キャラクター原案 水玉雹之承・roi8
Archenemy and Hero
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「この我のものとなれ、勇者よ」「断る！」
Chapter 44
Archenemy and Hero 44th chapter
"BALL OF LIGHT"

MAOYUU

Archenemy and Hero

VOLUME 14

Art by AKIRA ISHIDA
Original Work by MAMARE TOUNO
Character Design by KEINOJOU MIZUTAMA and toi8

Chapter 44 001
"BALL OF LIGHT"

Chapter 45 057
THIS IS... A SATURATION ATTACK

Chapter 46 109
IN THE NAME OF THOSE WHO WON'T RETURN

MAOYUU

Archenemy and Hero

VOLUME 14

Art by
AKIRA ISHIDA

Original Work by
MAMARE TOUNO

Character Design by **KEINOJOU MIZUTAMA** and **toi8**

COLUMN PAGE
Daisuke Takenouchi (Recca-sha)
Masataka Nomura

Despite this progress, the greatest problem remains: the Third Holy Key Expeditionary Force led by the Holy Kingdom's Royal Prince Marshal and the Archbishop, leader of the Church of Holy Light. Formed to acquire the Holy Relic, the Expeditionary Force is stationed in the former Midnight Sun Kingdom. Soon they will begin their invasion of the Spirit World. Their target is Gateway City, a settlement located at the entrance to Demon World. It is the only place in the world where humans and demons coexist.

AS I TOLD YOU THE OTHER DAY, THE GOAL OF THIS JOURNEY...
...IS TO GIVE THE DEMONS AND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE A CHANCE TO STOP HOSTILITIES.

As the Demon Queen and Female Knight work on countermeasures, the Older Sister Maid and Young Noble begin working on their own to stop the war. Upon hearing from Sorceress about what is the Demon Queen and Hero's true purpose, the Hero infiltrates the Holy Key Expeditionary Force to protect his newly discovered world from danger. With a range of purposes and ideals in their hearts, they all head for Gateway City, which will soon become a battlefield...

It has been three years since the dramatic meeting of the Demon Queen and Hero. Through their efforts that began in the Human World's the Wintering Town, the world is changing little by little. In the Southern Kingdoms of the Winter, Iron, and Ice Kingdoms, the lives of the people are improving considerably. The three kingdoms form the Three Kingdom Trade Alliance, establishing

...AND MADE EFFECTIVE USE OF THEM.
...IS THEY'VE REALIZED THE TRAITS OF THE MUSKET...
THE BIGGEST PROBLEM WE'RE FACING WITH THIS HOLY KEY EXPEDI-TIONARY FORCE...

their independence from the Holy Kingdom and Central Holy Light Church dominating the continent. Additionally, five nations on the continent's eastern end and seven sovereign cities join them to form the Southern Confederation.

Meanwhile in Demon World, the Blue Demon prince known as the Seal King attempts to assassinate the Demon Queen to take possession of her throne. The incident brings the other demon clans closer together, and they launch a punitive force to stop the Blue Demon forces invading the surface. Maintaining newly opened roads further erodes the existing enmity between the clans. Additionally, as the Blue Demons begin their invasion of the surface, the Southern Confederation enters negotiations with the Fairy Queen, the DemonWorld's envoy, mediated by the Hero. They take their first step toward a ceasefire and eventual peace treaty.

HERO

A young man working with Demon Queen. After learning the true nature of Demon Queen Hero from Sorceress, he joins the Holy Key Expeditionary Force to avoid a future of destruction.

ROYAL PRINCE MARSHAL

Younger brother of the Holy Kingdom's King. This hero of the Human World leads the third Holy Key Expeditionary Force.

LILY KNIGHT CAPTAIN

Captain of the Lily Knight who serve the Archbishop. She pledges her loyalty to the teaching of the Holy Light Church and the Archbishop.

BLUE ASH KING

Young hero of the Central Continent and King of the Mist Kingdom. He commands the front lines of the Holy Key Expeditionary Force.

MINSTREL YOUNGSTER

A girl from the Forest Song Clan who received the teachings of the Crimson Scholar. She has infiltrated the Holy Key Expeditionary Force.

ARCHBISHOP

Leader of the Holy Light Church that worships the spirit of light. He accompanies the Third Holy Key Expeditionary Force in search of the Holy Relic.

YOUNG ENGINEER

An Ogre boy who received teachings of the Crimson Scholar. Currently he is working to redesign Gateway City.

FAIRY QUEEN

Chief of the Fairy Clan.

BLUE STEEL GENERAL

Chief of the Machine Clan.

GIANT COUNT

Chief of the Giant Clan.

SILVER TIGER DUKE

Chief of the Beast Fang Clan.

BLUE SEALED KING

Chief of the Blue Demon Clan.

OGRE'S PRINCESS SHRINE MAIDEN

Chief of the Ogre Clan.

TATTOOED CHIEF

Chief of the Humanoid Clan.

FIRE DRAGON ARCHDUKE

Chief of the Dragon Clan.

DEMON QUEEN

Using the knowledge she gained from the Outer Library, Demon Queen seeks to reform the world. Currently she is searching for countermeasures against the Holy Key Expeditionary Force's muskets.

HEAD MAID

Has been caring for the Demon Queen since she was a child. She desires happiness for the Demon Queen and works to make the Demon Queen's dream come true.

OLDER SISTER MAID

A girl who previously worked in the Demon Queen's mansion. She has entered the subterranean world to stop the war.

SORCERESS

One of Hero's former traveling companions. Acting independently, she uses her knowledge to assist Hero.

YOUNGER SISTER MAID

A maid working in the Demon Queen's mansion. Her gluttony opens her eyes to the world of cooking. She is currently training in the Iron Kingdom.

LONE WINTER KING

King of Winter Kingdom. Along with Iron and Ice Kingdoms, he established his independence from the Central Continent. He also established the Southern Confederation.

YOUNG MERCHANT

Leader of the Merchant's Alliance, the Human World's largest economic organization. He takes advantage of the changing situation to enact economic reform.

BUTLER

One of Hero's former traveling companions. He serves Lone Winter King as his butler and gathers information.

FIRE DRAGON PRINCESS

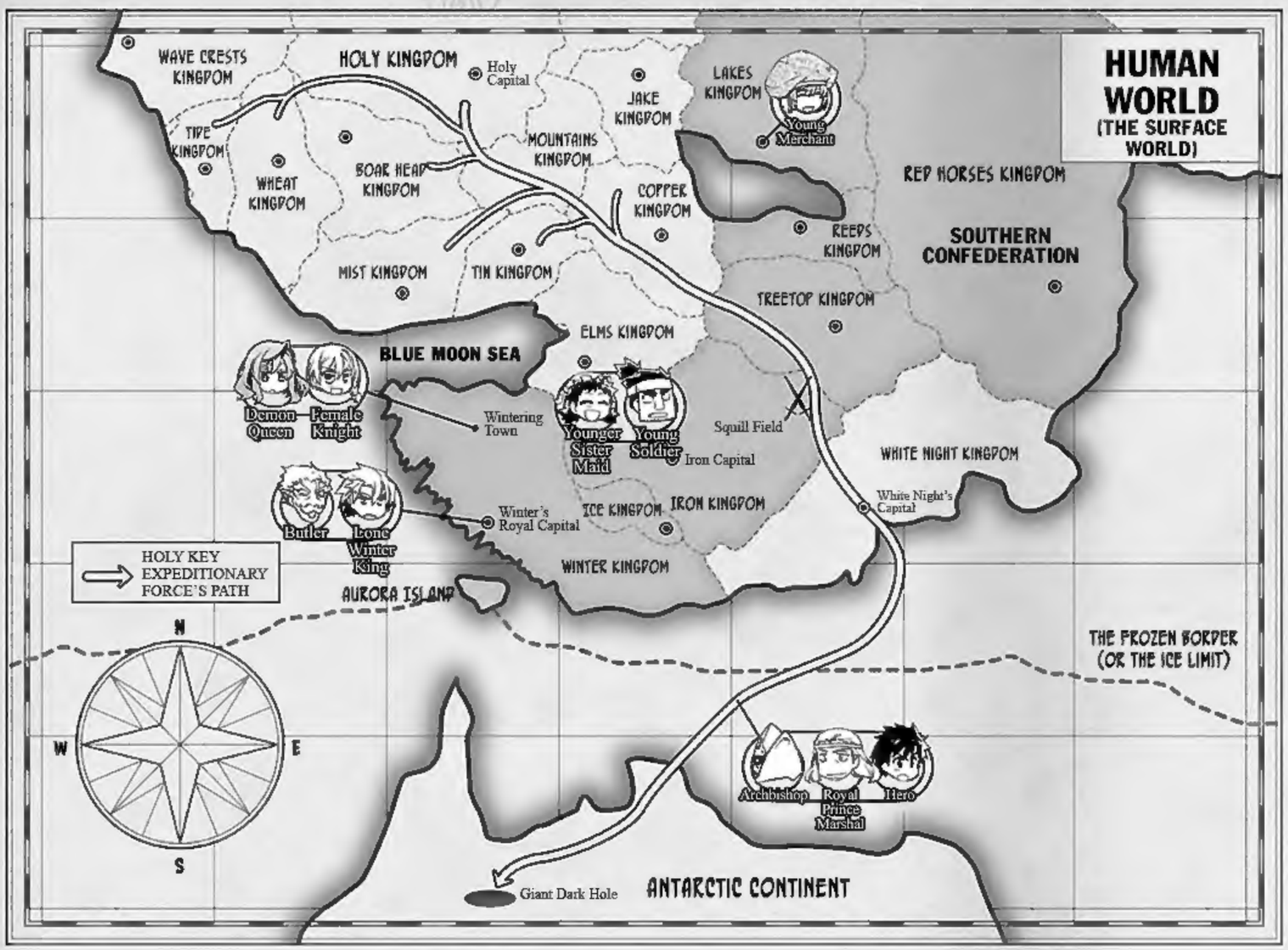
Daughter of Fire Dragon Archduke. As the demonic representative of Gateway City, she is currently working to redesign the city.

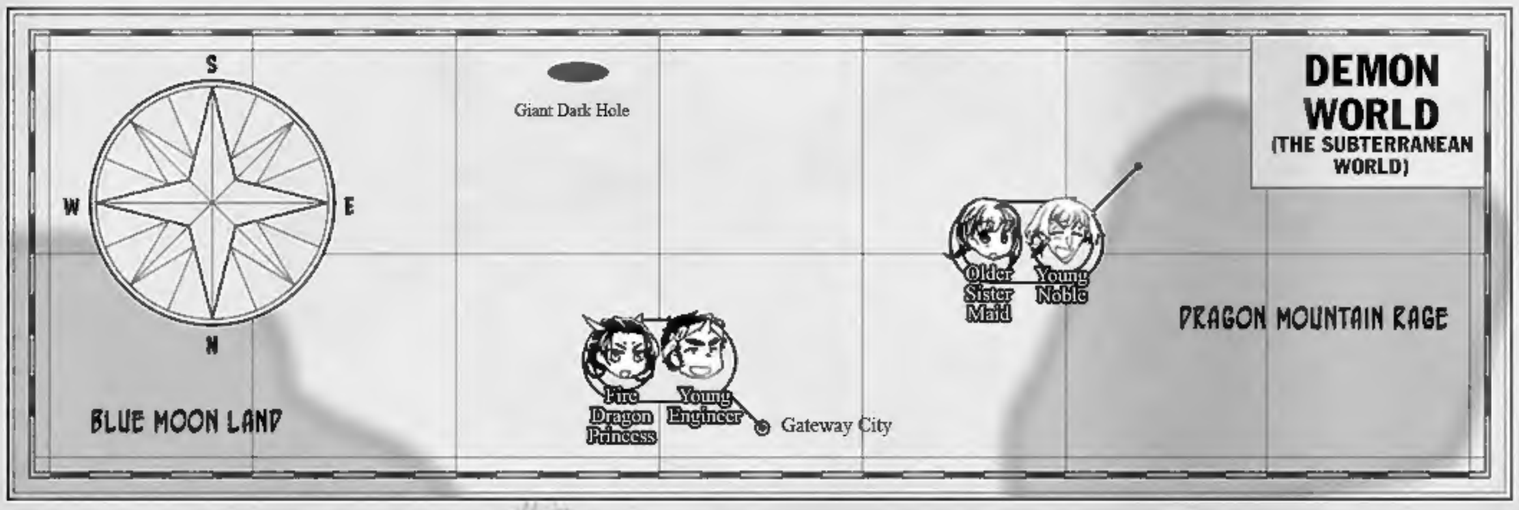
EASTERN FOREST GENERAL

Former captain of the Holy Key Expeditionary Force. He joins the conference of clans as chief of the Gateway Clan composed of the residents of Gateway City.

FEMALE KNIGHT

One of Hero's former traveling companions. Though she is aware of Demon Queen's true identity, she continues to help her.





LOCATION OF THE CHARACTERS

DEMON QUEEN / FEMALE KNIGHT

Demon Queen and Female Knight search for countermeasures to use against the Holy Key Expeditionary Force's muskets. Demon Queen invents the rifle. Though they have a promise to keep with Hero, it is postponed when Hero leaves.

YOUNG MERCHANT

Young Merchant uses the Alliance's power to put pressure on the flow of goods, slowing the musket's production rate. Additionally, he begins preparing to issue money orders, which were previously only available through the Holy Light Church.

LONE WINTER KING / BUTLER

Butler has mostly recovered from his injuries, and he is working with his subordinates on his own countermeasure against the muskets. Lone Winter King fulfills his kingly duties as he prepares to head into the Demon World.

ROYAL PRINCE MARSHAL / ARCHBISHOP / HERO

Royal Prince Marshal and Archbishop set sail for the Antarctic Continent with the Holy Key Expeditionary Force in tow. Hero joins them as their Demon World guide.

YOUNGER SISTER MAID / YOUNG SOLDIER

Young Soldier prepares to head into the Demon World. Though the precise whereabouts of Younger Sister Maid, who had been accompanying him, are unclear, it is believed she is still somewhere in the Iron Kingdom.

OLDER SISTER MAID / YOUNG NOBLE

Older Sister Maid and Young Noble, along with a band of mercenaries, dispose of the saltpeter stores held by the Holy Key Expeditionary Force in the White Night Kingdom. They seize a ship and set sail for the Antarctic Continent and from there they head for the Fire Dragon Mountain Range.

FIRE DRAGON PRINCESS / YOUNG ENGINEER

To prepare for the Holy Key Expeditionary Force's invasion, they are redesigning the city and building city walls.

REGARDING GATEWAY CITY

Gateway City is the city closest to the Gate (currently a giant dark hole) connecting the Human and Demon Worlds. Though it was captured by the First Holy Key Expeditionary Force, Hero disguised as the Black Knight forced the Expeditionary Force to withdraw from the city. The remaining humans and demons ended up living together in the city. The demons consider the location holy, and endless streams of pilgrims once visited the city. Because of its proximity to the Human and Demon Worlds, it has also seen a great number of battles. Recently under the guidance of Fire Dragon Princess, the city is being redesigned. However, since receiving word of the Royal Prince Marshal and Archbishop's formation of the Third Holy Key Expeditionary Force, Young Engineer has been rapidly building city walls to strengthen its defenses.

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ザッ

Really?

Huh

The demons will avoid your path.

You should sing while you walk

NO PROBLEM

THANK YOU!

YOU KNOCKED OUT THE RHINO DEMON WITH THE RON HIDE WITH A SINGLE BLOW!

IN...

INCRE-DIBLE!

YES, SIR.

HE'S FITT.NG RIGHT IN.

YOU'LL LOSE A LOT OF MEN CROSSING THE DEMON WORLD WITH SUCH A MASSIVE FORCE.

THE DEMONS OF THE DEMON WORLD ARE STRONG.

MANY OF THEM HAVE UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS OR POISONS.

THAT'S WHAT HE TOLD US..

AS A HERO I CAN'T DO NOTHING AS COMMON FOLK DIE.

I SUGGEST YOU HIRE ME TO BE YOUR GUIDE.

INDEED ..

WHO KNOWS?

BUT I WONDER WHAT HE ACTUALLY WANTS.

HE'S AN ADVENTURER WITH A SOME-WHAT CHILDISH SENSE OF JUSTICE.

HE ACTS ACCORDING TO HIS GREAT STRENGTH.

LONG TIME AGO, I HEARD STORIES OF THE HERO

...HE SEEMS RATHER DIFFERENT NOW.

BUT...

I'VE HEARD THE SAME.

OR SO I'VE HEARD.

I SENSED HE UNDERSTOOD THE WORLD ITSELF HAS ITS OWN INTERESTS

BUT MORE THAN THAT. .

HE CERTAINLY SEEMS PASSIONATE ENOUGH TO ACT WITHOUT REGARD FOR HIS OWN INTERESTS.

HE DIDN'T COME HERE FOR NO REASON.

FOR THAT REASON AS WELL, WE SHOULD KEEP HIM CLOSE

TO HANDLE A THREAT WHEN YOU KNOW WHERE IT IS

IT'S EASIER.

BUT..

..YOU SAW HOW STRONG HE IS. HE'S A THREAT

I HEARD THE LILY KNIGHTS REQUESTED CUSTODY OF HERO.

WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE SHE'S UP TO?

THE CHURCH SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR TAKING CARE OF HIM

HERO IS A DISCIPLE OF THE SPIRIT OF LIGHT

THEREFORE, HIS PRESENCE IS A BLESSING FROM THE SPIRIT.

ARCHBISHOP PROBABLY WANTS TO SEE HERO

FOR HIMSELF.

IRON KINGDOM

THANKS FOR COMING.

THIS WAY, PLEASE.

EXCUSE THE INTRUSION.

HEY

IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

RED HORSES WARRIOR KING AND TREETOP KING HAVE ALREADY ARRIVED.

WHERE ARE THE NOBLES?

THEY'RE ARRIVING SLOWLY.

LAKE KINGDOM'S QUEEN AND LORD OF THE SOVEREIGN CITIES SHOULD ARRIVE IN A FEW DAYS' TIME.

THE DEMON WORLD . .

THEY'LL DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO SEND TROOPS INTO THE SUBTERRANEAN WORLD.

JUST THINKING ABOUT IT MAKES MY HEAD HURT, THOUGH.

THIS WILL BE A MAJOR CONFERENCE.

INDEED.

……

くび…

THOUGH..

FROM A FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVE, I'M SURE YOU'RE OPPOSED

WHAT DO YOU TH.NK?

THEY TJRNED THEIR MUSKETS AGAINST JS ONCE, THOUGH WE'RE BOTH HUMAN.

I'M NOT SURE WE'RE N ANY POSITION TO OBJECT TO WHAT THEY'RE DOING

FJRTHER-MORE, THIS BATTLE. .

. .IS A HUMAN .NVAS.ON OF DEMON WORLD.

I SHOULD OBJECT.

?

NO

WHY?

BECAJSE THERE'S NO OTHER OPT ON.

YES

I BELIEVE WE SHOULD PARTICIPATE N THIS WAR.

WE MUST NOT FORGET..

THAT THEY'VE DECLARED THE NATIONS OF THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERATION HERET.CS.

THE CENTRAL CONTINENT ...

AND CHURCH'S POWER WILL NOT STOP THERE.

IF THE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE IS VICTO-R.OUS AND THEY EXPAND THE.R NFLJENCE...

THE DEMON WORLD .

THE CENTRAL CONT NENT'S K NGDOMS .

. AND OUR SOUTHERN CONFEDERATION'S POWER MUST BE BALANCED

FOR JS TO SURVIVE...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

BUT...

NATURALLY, CONDITIONS WILL BE FAIRLY HARSH.

HA...

SO I'M ALL FOR STOPPING THE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

BURDENING OUR PEOPLE UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES.

COULD RESULT IN AN OUTBURST OF OPPOSING OPINIONS

WE'RE NOT PROTECTING OURSELVES FROM THE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO CONVINCE EVERYONE THIS WAR WOULD BE JUST.

WE'RE FORCED TO RESOLVE THE SITUATION WITH OUR MEAGER FORCES

OUR MILITARY FORCE IS MINUSCULE COMPARED TO THE CENTRAL CONTINENT'S.

ADDITIONALLY, THOUGH WE'VE UNITED AS THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERATION...

TO PREVENT THAT, WE'LL NEED TO JUSTIFY THIS WAR.

WHAT'S THAT?

...

...

WE CERTAINLY DON'T HAVE THE MANPOWER TO STOP ALL...

300,000 HOLY KEY EXPEDITIONARY FORCE SOLDIERS HEAD ON.

HOW MUCH DO YOU HAVE?

おお、

I MANAGED TO GATHER RESOURCES FOR AN EXPEDITION.

BY MOVING AROUND WINTER KINGDOM'S STORES...

I DID RECEIVE A SMALL CUT.

FROM THE ALLIANCE'S GAME, THAT IS.

!!

IN CURRENCY, THAT'S 3 MILLION COINS.

ENOUGH FOR A SIX-MONTH, 50,000 MAN EXPEDITION.

BUT..
UNFOR-
TUNATELY,
THAT'S ALL
I CAN DO
I CAN'T
COMMAND
SOLDIERS
.
AND
I DON'T
KNOW HOW
TO STOP
THE WAR.
HOW-
EVER,
. MY
MIND IS
IMPATIENT.
I FEEL AS
THOUGH THERE
IS SOMETHING
IMPORTANT I
MUST DO.
I AM A
SOLDIER.
I WILL NOT
GO TO THE
DEMON WORLD
UNLESS I AM
COMMANDED
TO.
MY HEART
CAN'T WAIT
HURRY!
BEFORE
IT'S TOO
LATE!
I HEAR
THAT VOICE
SOMEWHERE
INSIDE ME

WE'LL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN.

THOUGH IT'S NOT MUCH.

I WILL INTEND THE CONFERENCE.

SOUNDS GOOD.

WE WILL SUPPORT YOU.

THE ARCHBISHOP HAS ARRIVED.

フィ

……

!!!

MAY THE SPIRIT BLESS..

. YOUR GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS AND VALOR AND OUR VICTORY IN THIS HOLY WAR.

ARCHBISHOP

AHOOK

OUR PURE MAIDENS WILL WASH AWAY THE SINS OF YOUR WORLDLY EXISTENCE.

WELL, HERO?

WILL YOU JOIN THE HOLY LILY KNIGHTS IN OUR CAMP?

I'LL CARRY MY SINS WITH ME

UM. ACTUALLY.

AS FAR AS THAT GOES..

YOU SHOULD TALK TO THE ROYAL PRINCE MARSHAL.

THEN AT LEAST LET THE CHURCH LOOK AFTER YOU.

IT'S WHAT THE SPIRIT WANTS.

IT CAN'T BE HELPED.

KNIGHT CAPTAIN.

HE REJECTED YOU.

IRON KINGDOM
ROYAL PALACE
CONFERENCE ROOM

I'M NTERESTED TO HEAR HOW YOU TH.NK WE SHOULD HANDLE THEM.

SHOULD WE DISPATCH OUR OWN FORCE OR NOT?

THEIR STRENGTH IS UNPARAL-LELED

THE DEMON WORLD MJST FEEL THREATENED.

THE EXPEDIT.ONARY FORCE HEADING FOR THE DEMON WORLD HAS 300,000 MEN.

HE'S RIGHT.

WE MAY HAVE A PEACE TREATY WITH THE DEMONS, BUT WE DON'T HAVE TO FIGHT ALONG-SIDE THEM.

BUT ..

SUPPOSING WE DO GO, WHAT CAN WE ACCOMPLISH?

THEY SAY ECONOM.ES THRIVE DURING WAR.

IT'S CERTA.NLY CONVINCING.

WE SHOULD BL.LD OUR STRENGTH WH.LE THEY F.GHT

ISN'T THIS A FORTUITOUS OPPORTUNITY?

THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERAT ON'S ECONOMY IS THRIVING

THE SAYING...

"ECONOMIES THRIVE DURING WAR"..

IS FALSE.

AS A SPECIALIST IN FINANCE AND COMMERCE, I CAN TELL YOU...

I AM THE WINTER KINGDOM'S TREASURER.

EXCUSE ME,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

BROADLY SPEAKING, THE PHENOMENON SIMPLY DOESN'T EXIST.

ARE YOU SERIOUS?!

BUT THAT'S WHAT'S ALWAYS BEEN SAID!

HOW DARE YOU SPEAK SUCH NONSENSE!

THE WORLD WILL NEVER BECOME MORE PROSPEROUS ...

THROUGH WAR.

AND WITH THE ARRIVAL OF MJSKETS..

WARS NOW CONSUME GUNPOWDER AS WELL.

A VAR ETY OF VEH.CLES TO MOVE AROUND

FOOD, WEAPONS, CLOTHES AND PROTECTION AGAINST COLD

FUEL AND CONSUMABLES.

WARS REQUIRE ALL TYPE OF RESOURCES.

DO YOU TRULY BEL.EVE WAR INCREASES WEALTH?

FOR EXAMPLE, F YOL BJY 4 PIGS, NEXT YEAR YOU WILL HAVE 8.

THAT'S AN INCREASE OF WEALTH.

WHILE CONSUM.NG ALL THESE SOCIAL GOODS ...

WHAT R.CHES DO YOU BEL EVE WAR CREATE?

ON THE WHOLE, WAR CAN'T CREATE WEALTH.

IT'S A MASSIVE WASTE.

AND DESTROYS THE FAC L.-T ES AND MEANS TO PRODUCE WEALTH.

WAR CONSUMES A GREAT AMOUNT OF RESOURCE ..

SOLDIERS BURN FIELDS.

WAR K.LLS PIGS.

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO DO IT..

THEN WARS ARE CERTAINLY AN ATTRACTIVE MASSIVE EXPENSE.

"WARS CONDUCTED BY ENTITIES WHO CAN FORCE THE COST OF WAR ONTO ANOTHER."

THE FIRST EXAMPLE THAT COMES TO MIND IS..

THE ONLY THING WAR BARELY MANAGES TO ACCOMPLISH...

IS THE LOCAL TRANSFER OF WEALTH.

THEY USED THE WEALTH THEY PILLAGED TO PAY FOR THEIR WAR.

THE WARS OF PLUNDER CONDUCTED IN ANCIENT TIMES FALL ONTO THIS CATEGORY.

IN THEORY, YOU CAN INFINITELY INCREASE YOUR OWN WEALTH.

IF YOU CAN DECLARE WAR..

WHILE MAKING ANOTHER PAY FOR IT.

IN OTHER WORDS..

EXTORTING ANOTHER WITH THE THREAT OF WAR.

DIPLOMATIC THREATS.

INDEMNITIES ARE IN TURN LITTLE MORE THAN...

THIS EXISTS TODAY IN THE FORM OF INDEMNITIES THAT THE LOSING SIDE IS FORCED TO PAY.

MILITARY PROCUREMENT FALLS NTO THIS CATEGORY.

IF THE R OWN NAT ON IS GUARAN- TEED PRO- TECTION.

IT BECOMES AN ATTRACTIVE MARKETPLACE FOR THE OTHER NAT ONS AT WAR.

THE NEXT EXAMPLE THAT COMES TO M.ND IS AN JN.NVOLVED TH.RD PARTY ..

SELL.NG THEIR OWN GOODS TO THE NATIONS INVOLVED N WAR.

WE CAN WAIT AND SEE HOW IT GOES.

BECAUSE THE HOLY KEY EXPEDITIONARY FORCE S HEADING FOR THE DEMON WORLD, OUR ECON- OMY IS THRIVING.

THAT'S PRECISELY THE SITUATION THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERA- TION IS IN.

MY PROTECTOR

WHO IS HE?

WHEN DID THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERAT.ON BECOME A THIRD PARTY?

WITH THE HELP OF OTHER DEMONS

BECAJSE WE FACED THE BLUE DEMON ARMY AND HOLY KEY EXPEDIT.ONARY FORCE...

THE REASON THE IRON K.NGDOM'S ARMY BARELY SURVIVED THE BATTLE OF SQU.LL F ELDS IS..

THERE'S NO REASON THEY COULDN'T HAVE TURNED THEIR MUSKETS AGAINST US.

COULD WIPE EVERY LAST ONE OF US FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

BUT THE 300,000 SOLD ERS OF THE HOLY KEY EXPEDIT.ONARY FORCE...

COULD HAVE ANN.HILATED OUR ARMY

THE ARMY OF 25,000 BLUE DEMONS..

IT'S WAR ON A MASSIVE SCALE.

IS ENGAGED IN THE FARTHEST REACH.NG EXPE- DITION HUMAN- K.ND HAS EVER EXPER ENCED

THE CJRRENT HOLY KEY EXPEDI- TIONARY FORCE...

I HAVE SOMETHING ELSE TO ADD.

3 million a month ?

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NUMBERS THIS LARGE.

IN ALL THE WARS WE'RE EXPERIENCE, WE'VE NEVER SEEN .

THIS IS THE PROJECTED UPKEEP OF THE HOLY KEY EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

Monthly Upkeep

1,000,000 coins. Food

+

500,000 coins: Ship Maintenance & Construction

+

500,000 coins. Weapons

+

1,000,000 coins Musket Bullets

=

Total: 3,000,000

YOU CAN SEE THAT THE REALITY WE ARE FACING IS FAR FROM SECURE.

IN THIS WAY...

ARMIES EXIST TO FIGHT WARS

AN ARMY THAT DOESN'T FIGHT IS A WASTE OF FOOD.

WHICH MEANS TO SUSTAIN THIS ARMY...

IT NEEDS WAR AND VICTORY TO KEEP IT GOING.

.....

YOU MUST REMEMBER

WE'VE BEEN DECLARED HERETICS.

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

ZERO.

IN THE LONG TERM, WHAT ARE OUR CHANCES OF REMAINING ..

COMPLETELY UNINVOLVED IN THE WAR?

AND SURVIVE BY BECOMING THE R SLAVES.

WE CAN PAY THE HOLY KINGDOM AND CHURCH A HEFTY FEE EVERY YEAR.

NATURALLY, THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE HAVE TO FIGHT

WHAT DO YOU THINK, LORDS..

AND LADIE

THOUGH YOUR VIEWS ARE RATHER BIASED...

I BELIEVED THEM TO BE MOSTLY ACCURATE.

コポ

I AGREE

WE JOINED THE CONFEDERATION BECAUSE WE DESPISED ...

IF WE MEANT TO GO BACK...

THE CENTRAL CONTINENT'S TYRANNY.

WE NEVER WOULD HAVE JOINED.

.....

114

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WE WILL DISPATCH FORCES LED BY THE IRON FIST K.NG TO THE DEMON WORLD

YES.

VERY WELL, THEN.

IN THE EXPEDIT ONARY FORCE'S 300,000 MEN.

EVEN IF WE MUSTER ALL OUR FORCES, WE CAN'T MAKE A DENT...

A METHOD OF POL TICAL RESOLUTION.

WE SHOULD CONS.DER THIS DE-PLOY-MENT.

ろ

ろ

WE MUST PLAN CAREFULLY HOW MANY SOLD ERS WE WILL SEND.

EACH NATION MUST CONS.DER THE MATTER.

ﾊｱ

ﾊｱ

!!

She should've been at this meeting.

BY THE WAY, WHERE IS MASTER KNIGHT?

The real trouble still lies ahead

WE'RE DEPLOYING TROOPS, HUH?

I GUESS I'M GOING TO THE DEMON WORLD

think she'll be fine

must catch up quickly

WHAT?!

SHE ALREADY LEFT WITH A COMPANY OF THE MONASTIC ORDER'S KNIGHTS, AND VOLUNTEERS SOLDIERS.

AS I'VE TOLD YOU SEVERAL TIMES NOW...

PLEASE!

WE'D LIKE TO TELL HIS GRACE ABOUT THE CHANGE IN PLANS.

THERE IS NO CHANGE N PLANS.

WE'LL JSE OUR ENTIRE ARMY TO CAPTURE GATEWAY C.TY.

IT IS HIS GRACE'S WILL.

WE NEED THE RICK MINERAL RESOURCES, ESPECIALLY SALTPETER OF THE FORMER BLJE DEMONS' TERRITORY.

TO CONTINJE WAG NG WAR THROUGHOUT THE REST OF THE DEMON WORLD.

Gateway City

Blue Demon Capital

Gate

WE SHOULD CAPTURE THIS AREA BEFORE ATTACK NG GATEWAY C.TY AND SECURE A SUPPLY BASE IN THE DEMON WORLD

THE WAR WON'T END WITH GATEWAY C.TY.

WE'RE MERELY STANDING ON THE DOORSTEP OF THE DEMON WORLD.

RIGHT?

BLUE ASH KING?

FATIGUE? GUNPOWDER AND FOOD?

SUCH THINGS ARE NOTHING IN THE FACE OF OUR ABSOLUTE FAITH AND THE BLESSING OF THE SPIRIT.

YOU WORRY TOO MUCH, ROYAL PRICE MARSHAL.

WE ARE WARRIORS OF THE LIGHT IN SERVICE OF HIS GRACE.

ARE YOU CAPABLE OF COMMANDING OUR FORCES?

YOU CAN COUNT ON ME.

THAT'S WHY I COMMAND THE FRONT LINES.

SHE WON HIM OVER!

YOU CAN LEAD 50,000 SOLDIERS AND CAPTURE THE BLUE DEMON ARMY'S TERRITORY.

I WILL LEAD 150,000 SOLDIERS AND TAKE GATEWAY CITY

Gateway City

Blue Demon Capital

150K

50K

WHY NOT SPLIT OUR ARMY IN TWO?

FIGHTING ON 2 FRONTS IS GENERALLY A BAD IDEA.

BUT FORTUNATELY, THE HOLY KEY EXPEDITIONARY FORCE HAS ENOUGH SOLDIERS TO PULL IT OFF

HEH

HEH HEH HEH HEH

SOUND FINE

.....

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

AND...

WE HAVE ACQUIRED THE HERO, OUR "KEY".

GATEWAY CITY IS BEFORE US.

OUR "GATE" AND ALTAR

ROYAL PRINCE MARSHAL

IT IS YOU WHO DOESN'T UNDERSTAND.

WHAT NEED DO WE HAVE TO GO OUT OF OUR WAY?

SFX: heh heh heh heh

THE HOLY KEY EXPEDITIONARY FORCE IS ROUGHLY 72 KILOMETERS AWAY!

THEY COULD ATTACK AS SOON AS THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW!

THE R FORCES ARE TOO NUMEROUS FOR AN ACCJRATE ASSESSMENT.

BJT THEIR ARMY NUMBERS CLOSE TO 200,000

ALL TOGETHER WE HAVE LESS THAN 60,000.

200,000

HEARING THE NJMBER MAKES ME FEEL FAINT.

AT THE VERY LEAST, WE HAVE AMPLE PROVISION AND GEOGRAPHICAL ADVANTAGE.

WE SHOULD ATTACK THEM.

ACCORDING TO OUR SCOUTS' REPORTS...

THEY MAY DIVIDE THEIR FORCES IN TWO

AND ACCORD NG TO REPORTS, THE MAJORITY OF THE HUMAN EXPEDI- TIONARY FORCE'S SOLDIERS ARE NOT PROPER SOLDIERS.

BJT I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH FA.TH WE CAN PUT .

IN WALLS JNTESTED BY WAR.

I'VE HEARD THIS C.TY HAS NEARLY COMPLETE CONSTRUCT.ON OF NEW WALLS

WE'LL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS AND REDUCE THE.R NUMBERS AS MUCH AS POSS BLE.

AT F RST THEIR MORALE WILL BE UNSTABLE.

THOUGH I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL..

AS TERRIFYING AS MUSKETS ARE, THEY ARE STILL RELATIVELY UNTRA.NED FRESH SOLD.ERS.

BUT...

THE R FORCE HAS MJSKETS EVEN THE DEMON QUEEN FEARS..

WE MUST CONDUCT SURPRISE ATTACKS TO REDUCE THE R NUMBERS

BUT OUR NUMBERS ARE STILL FAR FEWER THAN THEIRS.

BUT MANY PEOPLE STAYED TO PROTECT THIS CITY.

SOME LEFT GATEWAY CITY ONCE WE MADE THE SITUATION PUBL C...

WE HAVE MORE VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS THAN WE EXPECTED

THE FLAM.NG MOUNTA.N RANGE IS .NDEED AHEAD

HOW'D T GO?

THE FIRE DRAGONS' CASTLE MUST BE DOWN THIS ROAD

THERE'S SOMETHING I CAN DO ABOUT THAT

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

We don't stand a chance

THEY ALL LOOKED STRONG.

THE GATE WAS SWARMING WITH GUARDS.

?

STOP!

WHO ARE YOU?!

IDENTIFY YOURSELF!

WHAT?!

DEMON QUEEN!

DE...

IT'S ME

is she a magician?

DOESN'T SHE LOOK TOTALLY DIFFERENT?

CAN SHE REALLY TRANSFORM INTO THE DEMON QUEEN?

THEY SAY SHE'S THE DEMON QUEEN

I SAW HER AT THE KURULTAI!

I'M SURE OF .T! IT'S THE DEMON QUEEN!

BUT ..

WHO ARE THESE HJMANS?

YE...

YES MA'AM!

PLEASE TELL FIRE DRAGON ARCHDUKE. .

I HAVE SOMETHING SECRET AND URGENT TO DISCUSS WITH HIM.

HEY!

INFORM THE ARCHDUKE IMMEDIATELY

YES MA'AM

VERY WELL!

I WOULD APPREC ATE F YOU COULD REWARD THEM FOR THE R SERVICES.

THEY HAVE A LONG JOURNEY AHEAD OF THEM

THEY ARE MY ESCORTS WHO HAVE ACCOMPANIED ME FROM THE HUMAN WORLD

DEMON QUEEN!

STAND ..

WE WILL SETTLE THIS WITH WORDS

IF WE CAN'T,

THERE'S NO POINT IN RESISTING.

"DON'T WORRY."

YES MA'AM

OUR CONVERSATION IS PRIVATE.

PLEASE LEAVE.

THIS WAY.

THANK YOU.

NOW THEN.

WHO ARE YOU?

YOU CERTAINLY LOOK LIKE THE DEMON QUEEN, BUT YOU SMELL HUMAN...

IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU.

YES

I AM HUMAN.

I APOLOGIZE FOR VISITING YOU IN THIS WAY

HMPH.

IN RECENT YEARS I'VE GROWN ACCUSTOMED TO SUCH RUDE INTRUSIONS.

Hero, that man they're all human

DID YOU LEARN YOUR MANNERS FROM THE CHIEF MAID?

YES

SHE IS MY TEACHER

I STUDIED UNDER THE CHIEF MAID AND DEMON QUEEN.

THAT SAID.

I HAVEN'T COME WITH ORDERS OR MESSAGE FROM THE DEMON QUEEN.

I'VE LEFT THE DEMON QUEEN AND CURRENTLY OPERATE INDEPENDENTLY.

?

HA HA HA HA

INTERESTING!

NO

I'VE COME OF MY OWN WILL.

ARE YOU RECEIVING NSTRUCT ONS FROM SOME PERSON OR ORGAN.ZAT.ON?

I DO NOT SPEAK WITH MERE SERVANTS.

CHIEF OF ONE OF THE DEMON WORLD'S GREATEST CLANS.

I MAYBE OLD, BUT I'M STILL F.RE DRAGON ARCHDUKE.

RATHER..

IT'S POSSIBLE I WON'T BE ABLE TO RETURN IT, SO I ASK THAT YOU GIVE IT TO ME.

I'VE COME TO BORROW A TREASURE THAT BELONGS TO THE DRAGON CLAN.

TELL ME WHY YOU'VE BORROW THE DEMON QUEEN'S APPEARANCE TO COME HERE

!?

HOW DO YOU...

I DESIRE THE "BALL OF LIGHT."

WHAT DO YOU DESIRE?

THE BLIZZARD SWORD?

OR THE GODDESS' RING?

IT WAS A LIBRARY OF ANCIENT KNOW-LEDGE.

IT GLOWED WITH A BLUE LIGHT.

I SAW IT IN A DREAM.

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT NAME!?

I NEED THAT TREASURE KEPT BY THE DEMON CLAN.

A SINGLE GIRL BECAME A SPIRIT OF LIGHT TO SAVE THE WORLD.

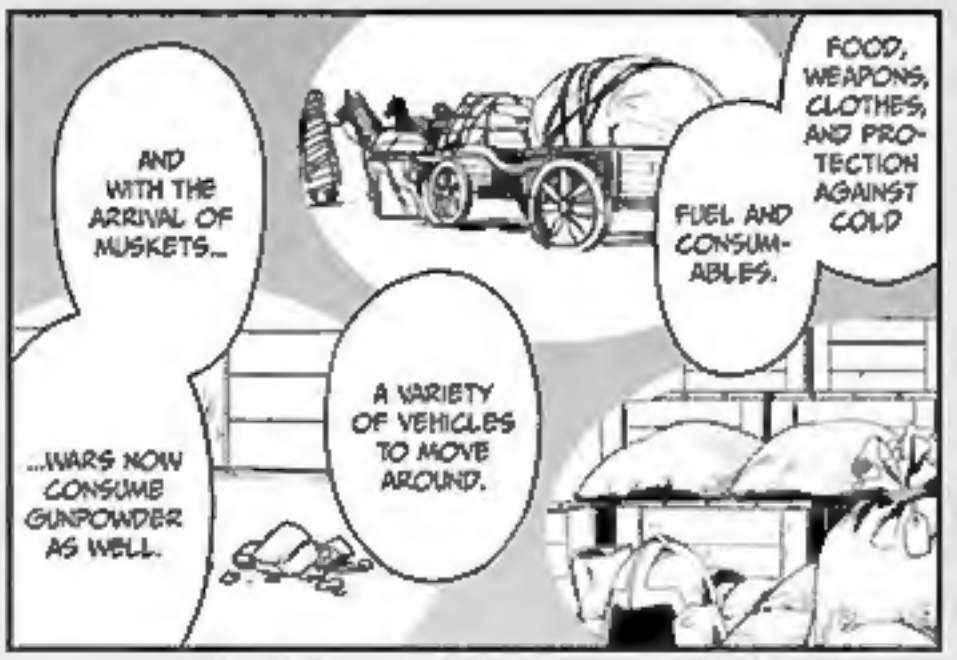
ONE OF THE GIFTS SHE LEFT BEHIND WAS THE "BALL OF LIGHT."

THE END

Chapter 44
"BALL OF LIGHT"

MILITARY SPENDING NECESSARY FOR SUSTAINING WARS AND ARMIES

Maintaining armies and wars require a massive amount of military spending. Statesmen are constantly tasked with securing the required resources.


AND WITH THE ARRIVAL OF MUSKETS...
...WARS NOW CONSUME GUNPOWDER AS WELL.
A VARIETY OF VEHICLES TO MOVE AROUND.
FUEL AND CONSUM-ABLES.
FOOD, WEAPONS, CLOTHES, AND PRO-TECTION AGAINST COLD

Maintaining armies and wars require not only physical goods but also personnel costs for soldiers.

Military Spending: The Statesman's Headache Since Ancient Times

Regardless of morality, war is one of many diplomatic methods. Winners are allowed to have their way in the matter that started the conflict, and sometimes they are awarded indemnities. However, when speaking strictly of "production," wars create nothing. As the Young Merchant points out in this work, wars are a massive expense and waste of resources.

In addition to being a massive resource sink, wars are also very costly. Procuring these funds known as military spending has long been the troublesome responsibility of statesmen.

The city-states of ancient Greece and knights of the Middle Ages' feudal society armed themselves. In exchange for the right to vote and ownership of property, they were required to fight, but even in these times some degree of military spending was required to construct siege weapons or pay mercenaries to expand one's forces.

Until about the 18th Century, in Western Europe mercenaries constituted the majority of an army, and every time a war broke out they had to be hired. However, mercenary captains on opposing sides would work together to fight token battles over and over to extort as much money as possible from their employers.

Since this time, the outcome of war was not only determined by the strength of one's army, but also by one's financial ability to continue paying the necessary costs of war.

As guns and cannons came to dominate the battlefield, it became necessary to invent and produce weapons as well as secure the massive amounts of gunpowder consumed by them. Additionally, with the need to repair defenses used against firearms and personnel costs for those providing increasing amounts of supplies and transportation, war expenditures continued to rise.

Military spending was paid for by granting special privileges for cities and merchant groups or by collecting taxes. Some nations, like England, attacked ships coming from the New World and used the plunder to supplement their military spending.

...DIPLO-MATIC THREATS.
INDEMNI-TIES ARE IN TURN LITTLE MORE THAN...
THIS EXISTS TODAY IN THE FORM OF INDEMNITIES THE LOSING SIDE IS FORCED TO PAY.

At the beginning of the 19th Century, Napoleon's army sometimes waged war to acquire indemnities.

Later, technological developments produced a variety of new weapons. As weapons become increasingly high-tech, the ballooning cost of military spending continues to give modern statesmen headaches.

SAME BUT DIFFERENT